Spanish regime sugar had become a major export but was a relatively backward industry. "Not until after the free trade developments of 1909 did the sugar industry expand markedly, though the United States already was the chief market."[99]

The major sugar cane-producing areas of the Philippines are central Luzon, Panay, and Negros. In 1950-51 Negros produced nearly 2 per cent of the world's total sugar cane. In contrast to the backward practices associated, for the most part, with the corn-coconut and rice regions of Negros:

> The techniques used in the sugar-producing areas represent an entirely different stage in the application of technical know-how to agriculture than do the practices used in any of the other agricultural crops...Mechanized farming is practiced in most of the sugar cane-producing areas where land holdings are of sufficient size to permit economic use. Artificial fertilizers are applied on almost all of the cane fields. The use of modern land farming techniques in sugar cane cultivation bears immediate cash returns, which is not the case with coconuts or other crops.[100]

Most of Negros' sugar cane is grown on haciendas (plantations) some of which are as large as several thousand acres. The haciendas are contracted to supply the mills with cane. In the case of the large Victorias sugar district, more than 400 individual planters supply cane for the Victorias Milling Company. For the most

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[99] Spencer, op. cit., p.803.

[100] Wernstedt, op. cit., pp.142-3.

part, the planters receive 60 per cent of the sugar obtained from the cane while the mills retain the remainder. In 1952 there were twelve sugar cane mills operating in Negros with only one in Negros Oriental (Bais). 249 257

At Victorias the workers are provided with squat cement houses with running water and electricity. Victorias is a small city with a church (one of the most dramatically modern structures in the Philippines), stores, hospital, recreational facilities, and schools. The general standard of living of the mill workers is much higher than that of the average farmer of Caticugan. Mr. Frederico Ossorio, General Manager of the Victorias Milling Company, has initiated a cooperative vocational school, and other programs to encourage community development and leadership among the workers. 257 361 [511] [874]

Negros' major sugar region begins in the south with Ilog and continues northward and eastward along the littoral. (See Plate XVI.) This region has been divided into the northern and western subregions. On Negros' eastern coast there are two small sugar cane districts, San Carlos and Bais. The sugar cane regions and the plains of Negros coincide closely. (See Plates V and XVI.)[1] 311 249

Wernstedt reports: "The western sugar subregion is the most important sugar-producing region on Negros Island, and the most important single sugar-producing

1 [See pp. 38+105, cat. 311+249 -- Analyst]